

## CAUSES AND PREVENTION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

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### ABSTRACT

In India, juvenile delinquency is a major issue, with the majority of young people losing their lives as a result of it. Teenage criminality and related issues have a variety of repercussions for the kids involved, as well as for their families and the whole community. In addition to having an impact on the victims of crime, the issue also has an impact on the family of the juvenile delinquent, their future, and the community as a whole. The victims of juvenile delinquency are the most visible individuals who are impacted by it. Children and adolescents suffer the most severe consequences of their crimes because of the socio-economic and psychological difficulties that they cause in their families and in society as a result of their actions. Those under the age of majority who commit severe crimes do so in order to protest perceived injustices that have been committed against them in the past. This causes individuals to suffer from psychological depression, which in turn leads to their committing additional crimes. As a result, it is important to do research on the prevalence of juvenile delinquency in order to identify and evaluate the reasons from a psychological standpoint, as well as to eradicate the problem from society.

**Keywords:** Juvenile Delinquency, Perceived, Injustices, Depression and Illegal.

### INTRODUCTION

Juvenile criminality is one of the most severe issues facing the country today. Officials from the federal, state, and municipal governments, as well as members of the general public, are all concerned about it. This worry has increased in recent years as a result of the significant increase in adolescent violence that started in the mid-1980s and reached its apex in the early 1990s. Though it seems that adolescent crime rates have declined since the mid-1990s, this reduction has done nothing to relieve the public's anxiety. A juvenile is defined as a person under the age of eighteen. The age limit below which it should not be permissible to deprive a kid of his or her liberty should be set by the law and should be adhered to. According to the law, the term "juvenile" refers to a kid who has not reached the age at which he may be held responsible for his illegal actions in the same way that an adult can be. As defined by law, a juvenile is a kid who has been accused of engaging in some act or omission on his or her own behalf that has been deemed unlawful. In legal terminology, the words juvenile and minor are used in a distinct context. When referring to young criminal offenders, the term juvenile is used, while the term minor refers to those who lack legal capacity or are under the age of majority. In order to make the meaning more apparent, it is possible to benefit from referring to another source. For the sake of convenience, the definition of a juvenile differs from state to state. Juvenile delinquency is defined as criminal conduct committed by a person under the age of eighteen years when charged with it. Because of a variety of factors and circumstances, these

illegal acts have increased significantly in recent years. Youths accused with severe offenses such as robbery or murder are often transferred to criminal courts and prosecuted as adults in the vast majority of jurisdictions worldwide. Sometimes prosecutors make this choice, and other times transfers are permitted after a hearing in which the age and criminal history of the juvenile, the nature of the offense, and the probability that the child would be assisted by the juvenile court are all considered. A consequence of a “get tough” approach to juvenile crime, several counties has changed their juvenile laws to make it simpler to transfer juvenile offenders to adult court. Juvenile delinquency may be summed up in two words: involvement in unlawful activities by children. The term “juvenile delinquent” refers to someone who commits a crime when under the age of 18 but is otherwise prosecuted and tried as an adult. When juvenile delinquency is not present in all adolescents, it's evident that it's part of the behavioral changes that occur in a person's life while they're going through the turbulent teenage years. Each person's level of delinquency is different and goes undetected until a specific conduct is brought to the attention of society as a whole. Since adolescence is a time of transition in one's life, revolutionary changes in physical, mental, moral, spiritual, sexual, and social perspective occur rapidly throughout this era. Their mental state deteriorates, and frequent mood swings are noted as a result. It's a time of apprehensions, concerns, disagreements, and difficulties. Because of this, people engage in behaviors that lead to crime throughout this time period in order to meet a variety of needs. Socially deviant or socially handicapped are words used to describe children who are delinquent or who have significant social adjustment deviations. They engage in criminal activity and ought to be penalized for it. Violations of social norms and values are deemed illegal because they endanger the community's well-being. Regardless of the severity of the offense, every antisocial behavior is punishable by the law as a criminal conduct. They resemble criminals and antisocial people in these ways. They are, however, known as delinquents rather than criminals in legal language. From simple naughtiness to severe violence, the phrase juvenile delinquency encompasses a wide range of criminal behavior. Juvenile delinquency is defined as the involvement of a child between the ages of 10 and 17 in unlawful activities. When a person deviates from the usual path of social life, his behavior is referred to as 'Delinquency.' When a youngster under the age stipulated by a law displays behavior that may be harmful to society or to himself, he is referred to as a juvenile delinquent. Juvenile delinquents are those offenders, both boys and girls, who are under the age of 18. A juvenile delinquent is a young kid who is incorrigible or who is disobedient on a regular basis.

### CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

🌈 **Individual Factors:-** A number of risk variables have been discovered in the context of juvenile delinquency. Those minors who are of lesser intellect and who do not get a decent education are more likely to become engaged in delinquent behavior. Among the other risk factors include impulsive behavior, uncontrolled aggressiveness, and an inability to put off pleasure for an extended period of time. Numerous distinct risk factors may be recognized as contributing to a juvenile's participation in hazardous, destructive, and criminal behaviors in many cases, and these risk factors can be combined to form a single risk factor.

- ✚ Family Factors:- Consistent patterns of familial risk factors are linked to the emergence of criminal behavior in children and adolescents. Parental neglect and abuse are among the many family risk factors that need to be addressed (emotional, psychological or physical). The offspring of parents who do not respect the law and social standards are more likely to think like their parents. When it comes to delinquent behavior, children who have a poor connection to their family are more likely to participate in risky behaviors such as drugs and alcohol use.
- ✚ Mental Health Factors:- Several mental health issues are also thought to have a role in adolescent misbehavior. It's essential to remember, however, that some kinds of mental health problems, most notably personality disorders, cannot be diagnosed in children. However, there are antecedents to these circumstances that may be seen in infancy and eventually manifest themselves as delinquent behavior. Conduct disorder is a frequent one.
- ✚ Substance Abuse Factors:- When it comes to juvenile delinquency, drug addiction is seen in the majority of instances. Two patterns have been discovered in terms of substance abuse and children. One of the most significant differences between now and ten years ago is that adolescents are taking more potent narcotics. Second, the average age at which certain adolescents begin taking drugs is younger than the national average. It has been discovered that children in primary schools are abusing strong illicit substances. The use of these illicit substances, as well as the use of legal substances in an unlawful manner, encourages young people to conduct crimes in order to acquire money to purchase illegal narcotics. Additionally, while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, adolescents are much more prone to participate in disruptive, dangerous, and criminal behaviors.

### **Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency**

The allocation of resources to combat delinquency is becoming more important to governments across the world. Activities like drug addiction education and treatment are included in prevention services as are family counseling and youth mentorship. Other prevention services include educational services for parents as well as educational assistance for young people. For these youngsters, prevention is essential. First and foremost, we must identify these children and then treat them. If they aren't stopped from committing the crime in time, they will become a chronic offender. Helping children and their families as early as possible has been shown to be the most successful method of preventing juvenile delinquency in the past. As a result of federal support for community projects, many state organizations have attempted early intervention. Most successful programs have the following features in common. Many jurists and criminologists have proposed various measures to help keep kids out of trouble. Some of the measures are very beneficial to young people's well-being and development. Delinquency Prevention is a wide word that encompasses all efforts made to keep children and adolescents out of criminal or antisocial situations. In recent years, governments have begun to realize the necessity of investing resources to combat juvenile crime. Services such as drug addiction education and treatment, family counseling, youth mentorship, parental education, educational assistance, and youth sheltering are examples of prevention services. Government policy on juvenile delinquency is often hampered by the need to strike a balance between the public's



desire to punish offenders and its concern for the healthy development of children and adolescents who break the law. When it comes to dealing with juvenile criminals, the conflict between rehabilitation and punishment leads to an ambiguous attitude toward young offenders. All forms of criminal behavior must be resisted, denounced, and dealt with severely. Although children and adolescents who commit crimes must be taught and supported, government policy should aim to educate and assist all young people, not just those who commit crime.

### **Using Schools to Prevent Delinquency**

Schools are vital in the prevention, treatment, and control of adolescent delinquency for numerous reasons. A limited vocabulary and weak verbal thinking are predictors of persistent delinquency (Stattin and Klackenber-Larsson, 1993). The inability to organize and sequence action has also been linked to consistent aggressive behavior in early adolescent males (Seguin et al., 1995). However, early aggressive behavior may lead to lower IQ, or third factors (parental psychopathology) may account for the cognitive deficit-delinquency connection (Fergusson and Lynskey, 1997). Currently, there isn't enough evidence to determine causation. Academic performance and school-environment bonding may be a causative connection between poor cognitive ability and criminality. School truancy and dropout have been linked to subsequent violent delinquency (Hawkins et al., 1998b). Low cognitive capacity and low school bonding may lead to school skipping and dropping out, increasing the time available for criminal conduct. School-based cognitive treatments may help decrease delinquency and establish a causal connection between cognitive decline and subsequent criminality. Another benefit of acting in schools to prevent and decrease delinquency is that, with a few exceptions, the vast majority of children attend school, and the vast majority of those children also attend kindergarten, which increases the likelihood of success. This aids in the early detection of children who are exhibiting behavior issues, scholastic challenges, or both, which are recognized indicators of later delinquent conduct in the juvenile justice system. Following identification, a school-based intervention for individuals or groups may be administered with more ease than a similar intervention in the home or in a clinic setting. The assessments of school-based preventative interventions are discussed in the section that follows.

### **CONCLUSION**

A long-standing practice involves exploiting youngsters. Delinquents face many forms of abuse, including physical, sexual, psychological, and sometimes a combination. A child's life is forever changed as a result of abuse. Unfortunately, there is no quick fix for the severe issue of child abuse. There are also societal variables such as familial influence, the social environment, mental health issues, and sexual assault that explain why this has gone on for so long. This occurs when young individuals have a poor sense of self-control, are exposed to a dysfunctional social milieu, or are the victims of sexual abuse. This causes poor self-esteem in young people and emotional distress, both of which are linked to criminal conduct later in life. It is up to us to figure out what we need to do. Although we can't eradicate this issue of adolescent delinquency, there are ways to manage it. It is in the delinquent's best interest to be

rehabilitated and reintegrated into society as soon as feasible. As well as protecting these kids' rights, the State must use corrective measures and inculcate in them principles that will help elevate and empower them on a social level, so they may go on to play an important part in society.

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